

Carbon pricing's time has come

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Thank you for publishing the editorial highlighting that Clinton's climate plan only speaks of supporting renewables with government spending and subsidies — not a favorite of conservatives — and fails to mention lowering emissions with market-based, carbon emissions pricing, a plan that would likely garner favor among conservatives.

Just consider all the conservatives who have already called for carbon pricing: George Shultz, Greg Mankiw, Bob Inglis, Eli Lehrer and others at R Street, Irving Stelzer, Jerry Taylor, David Brooks, Holman Jenkins Jr., Arthur Laffer, the Republican governors who created Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (a cap and trade system), Susan Collins (sponsored a cap and dividend plan), and EPA directors appointed by Republican presidents (William Ruckelshaus, Lee Thomas, William Reilly and Christine Todd Whitman).

Even conservative Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker told James Hansen at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (March 2014) that a revenue-neutral carbon tax is a much better idea than cap and trade, if our nation ever gets to the point where it puts a price on carbon. Presidential candidate and Sen. Lindsey Graham says the GOP needs a climate change policy, a revenue-neutral carbon tax is the preferred conservative policy.

I'm sure Republican candidates enjoy newspapers disparaging Clinton's climate plan, but there's no point in Clinton promising a carbon pricing plan. If the USA is ever to have carbon pricing, it must be introduced by Congressional Republicans: a Democratic presidential candidate cannot promise what only Congressional Republicans can deliver.

It's time for Sens. Graham, Corker, Collins and Kelly Ayotte to introduce the "George Shultz and Gary Becker Carbon Fee and Dividend" plan as legislation. Republicans running for office need a climate plan. Carbon pricing's time has come.

— Judy Weiss Brookline, Massachusetts Volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, co-leader of the Boston chapter

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